

In the Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A system for electronically validating a probability lottery ticket having a plurality of player removable play spots covering play indicia wherein the lottery ticket has more than one potential redemption value and wherein the ticket redemption value depends upon which of the play indicia are covered by play spots that have been removed, comprising:

ticket data, relating which of the play indicia are located under which of the play spots, located printed on the lottery ticket; and

an electronic validation machine, including a detector for determining which of the play spots have been removed from the lottery ticket, a data reader for reading said ticket data and a microprocessor operatively connected to said detector and said data reader wherein said microprocessor computes which of the from said play spots that have been removed from the lottery ticket, and wherein said microprocessor computes in combination with said ticket data the ticket redemption value a ticket redemption value based the indicia under from the said play spots which have been removed and said ticket data.

2. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim 1 ~~additionally including a display operatively connected to said microprocessor for displaying said play redemption value~~ wherein different combinations of said player indicia represent different winning ticket redemption values.

3. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim 1 wherein said electronic validation machine ~~includes means to stigmatize the lottery ticket invalidates the~~ lottery ticket if more than a predetermined number of the play spots have been removed.

4. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim 1 wherein A validation system for a lottery ticket including player removable material located in predetermined locations on the ticket, comprising: the probability lottery ticket includes a player

removable material including the player removable play spots and said electronic validation machine includes:

a memory containing a data bit map representing at least a portion of the player removable material that has been removed, said memory further containing data representing validation data; and

wherein said microprocessor is a processor operatively connected to said memory for comparing said data bit map to said data representing validation data according to a predetermined criteria to validate the lottery ticket.

5. (Original) The system of Claim 4 wherein said predetermined criteria includes a location of the portion of the player removable material that has been removed.

6. (Original) The system of Claim 4 wherein said predetermined criteria includes a shape of the portion of the player removable material that has been removed.

7. (Original) The system of Claim 4 wherein said predetermined criteria includes an expected percentage of removal of the player removable material.

8. (Original) The system of Claim 7 wherein said percentage represents a minimum percentage of the player removable material for a played lottery ticket.

9. (Original) The system of Claim 8 wherein said minimum percentage is 30 percent.

10. (Original) The system of Claim 4 wherein said data representing validation data is contained in said memory as a game bit map and said processor compares said data in said game bit map to said data in said data bit map.

11. (Original) The system of Claim 4 further including means to stigmatize the

lottery ticket.

12. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim 1 wherein said detector includes ~~A system for validating a lottery ticket having player removable play spots covering play indicia, comprising:~~

a source of electromagnetic energy; and

a detector circuit including an array of photo-detectors responsive to said electromagnetic energy, said detector circuit generating a verification signal indicating which of the player removable spots have been removed from the lottery ticket; ~~and~~

~~— a validation circuit for determining from said verification signal a ticket redemption value related to the play spots that have been removed from the lottery ticket.~~

13. (Original) The system of Claim 12 wherein said validation circuit includes a display for displaying said ticket redemption value.

14. (Original) The system of Claim 12 further including a transport mechanism for moving the play spots past said array of photo-detectors.

15. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim 12 wherein ~~the lottery ticket includes ticket data related to at least one redemption value and wherein said validation circuit includes a reader for reading said ticket data and a computer for determining~~ computes said ticket redemption value from said verification signal and said ticket data.

16. (Original) The system of Claim 12 further including means for stigmatizing the lottery ticket.

17. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim 1 wherein said detector

includes a source of electromagnetic energy ~~An electronic lottery validation system, comprising:~~

~~—— a lottery ticket having a plurality of player removable play spots covering play indicia;~~
~~—— ticket data located on said lottery ticket containing information relating to said ticket;~~
~~—— a detector, including sensors, for determining which of said play spots have been removed; and~~
~~—— validation means for generating a play redemption value represented by said play spots which have been removed, said validation means being operationally connected to said detector and including a processor.~~

18. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim 17 wherein said lottery ticket is ~~a probability ticket having~~ includes at least one combination of said play spots representing a winning play redemption value.

19. (Original) The system of Claim 17 wherein said lottery ticket includes a plurality of circuit elements and wherein at least one of said circuit elements is associated with each of said play spots on said lottery ticket.

20. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim 17 wherein said detector includes a set of sensors adapted to detect and classify a frequency of electromagnetic radiation emitted by said lottery ticket in response to said electromagnetic energy.

21. (Original) The system of Claim 20 wherein the frequency of electromagnetic radiation sensed by said sensors is in the optical range of the electromagnetic spectrum.

22. (Original) The system of Claim 20 wherein the frequency of electromagnetic radiation sensed by said sensors is in the infrared range of the

electromagnetic spectrum.

23. (Original) The system of Claim 20 wherein the frequency of electromagnetic radiation sensed by said sensors is between 50 KHz and 150KHz.

24. (Original) The system of Claim 20 wherein said validation means includes means to stigmatize said lottery ticket.

25. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim 1 wherein ~~An electronic lottery ticket validation system, comprising;~~

~~—— a lottery ticket having a plurality of play indicia and a plurality of player removable play spots, each of said player removable play spots covering at least one of said play indicia;~~

~~—— ticket data located on said lottery ticket;~~ said ticket data includes including redemption information;

~~a~~ wherein said detector ~~including~~ includes electromagnetic sensors adapted to generate a removed spot signal identifying which of said play spots have been removed from said lottery ticket; and

wherein said electronic validation machine includes a validation means that includes said microprocessor for determining ~~a~~ the ticket redemption value related to ~~said play spots which have been removed, said validation means being operationally connected to said detector and including a reader configured to read at least a portion of said ticket data;~~ wherein said ticket redemption value is determined from said redemption information and said removed spot signal.

26. (Original) The system of Claim 25 wherein said redemption information includes play indicia value data.

27. (Original) The system of Claim 25 wherein at least a portion of said ticket data is optically readable indicia.

28. (Original) The system of Claim 27 wherein at least a portion of said ticket data includes data related to an integrity status of said lottery ticket.
29. (Original) The system of Claim 27 wherein said optically readable indicia is a bar code and said reader includes a bar code reader.
30. (Original) The system of Claim 27 wherein said reader includes an optical character reader.
31. (Original) The system of Claim 27 wherein said optically readable indicia includes alpha-numeric characters and wherein said system further includes a keyboard for entering said optically readable indicia into said validation means.
32. (Original) The system of Claim 27 wherein said ticket data is encoded in a magnetic material on the lottery ticket and wherein said system further includes a magnetic code reader.
33. (Original) The system of Claim 25 wherein said detector includes at least one electrical circuit element located on said lottery ticket.
34. (Original) The system of Claim 26 wherein said ticket data includes a plurality of play indicia value data corresponding to different combinations of said play spots on said lottery ticket and wherein said validation means determines said ticket redemption value from said plurality of play indicia value data.
35. (Original) The system of Claim 34 wherein said validation means additionally includes a display for displaying said ticket redemption value.
36. (Original) The system of Claim 34 wherein said validation means additionally includes a printer for printing said ticket redemption value.

37. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim 25 wherein ~~said lottery ticket is a probability ticket, wherein~~ at least one combination of said player removable play spots represents a winning ticket redemption value.

38. (Original) The system of Claim 26 wherein said redemption information includes an identity number relating to said play indicia value data.

39. (Original) The system of Claim 38 wherein said identity number includes a game number and a pack number.

40. (Original) The system of Claim 39 wherein said identity number additionally includes a ticket number.

41. (Original) The system of Claim 38 wherein said identity number includes a ticket number.

42. (Original) The system of Claim 38 wherein said identity number includes a game unique validation number.

43. (Original) The system of Claim 38 wherein said identity number includes a pool unique validation number.

44. (Original) The system of Claim 38 wherein said identity number includes a pack unique validation number.

45. (Original) The system of Claim 38 wherein said identity number includes ticket integrity data.

46. (Original) The system of Claim 38 wherein said identity number includes ticket reconstruction information.

47. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim 38 wherein said detector includes at least one electronic circuit on said lottery ticket associated with said player removable play spots, wherein said validation means includes a validation file containing redemption data corresponding to a plurality of said identification numbers, and wherein said validation means ~~includes a computer for utilizing~~ utilizes said validation file and said removed spot signal to generate a value representing said ticket redemption value.

48. (Original) The system of Claim 47 wherein said validation file and said computer are located remote from said reader.

49. (Original) The system of Claim 47 wherein said validation means includes a display for displaying said ticket redemption value.

50. (Original) The system of Claim 25 including a plurality of said lottery tickets wherein said redemption information on each of said lottery tickets includes an identity number, wherein said validation means includes a central computer having a validation file containing for each of said identity numbers redemption data relating to each of said lottery tickets and wherein said central computer determines said ticket redemption value from said removed spot signal, said identity number, and said redemption data in said validation file.

51. (Original) The system of Claim 50 wherein said central computer and said validation file are remote from said detector and said reader, and wherein said validation means includes transmission means for transmitting said identity number and said removed spot signal to said central computer.

52. (Original) The system of Claim 51 wherein said validation means additionally includes a display for displaying said ticket redemption value.

53. (Original) The system of Claim 52 wherein said display is located with

said reader and said transmission means additionally transmits said ticket redemption value to said display from said central computer.

54. (Original) The system of Claim 25 wherein said ticket data includes a play spot code containing information related to a location on said lottery ticket of at least a portion of said play spots.

55. (Original) The system of Claim 54 wherein said play spot code is represented by a number that relates to a redemption value for each of said play indicia under said portion of said play spots.

56. (Original) The system of Claim 55 wherein said number is a base 10 number.

57. (Original) The system of Claim 55 wherein said number is a binary number.

58. (Original) The system of Claim 55 wherein includes computational means for converting said number into a plurality of play spot location codes, each of said play spot location codes corresponding to one of said play indicia under said portion of said play spots and representing a location on said lottery ticket of said one play indicia.

59. (Original) The system of Claim 58 wherein said play spot location codes are two-bit binary numbers.

60. (Original) The system of Claim 59 additionally including a central computer remote from said validation means and wherein at least one of said play spot location codes causes said validation means to transmit information containing said play spot location codes to said central computer to determine said ticket redemption value.

61. (Original) The system of Claim 25 wherein said ticket data includes a play spot code containing information related to a play spot value for at least a portion of said play spots.

62. (Original) The system of Claim 61 wherein said detector includes a circuit element under at least one of said play spots on said lottery ticket and wherein said system includes means for generating a signal representing an electrical signature of said circuit element.

63. (Original) The system of Claim 61 wherein said play spot code is represented by a number relating to a redemption value for each of said play indicia under said portion of said play spots.

64. (Original) The system of Claim 63 wherein said number is a base 10 number.

65. (Original) The system of Claim 63 wherein said number is a binary number.

66. (Original) The system of Claim 63 wherein said validation means includes computational means for converting said number into a plurality of play indicia redemption codes wherein each of said play indicia redemption codes corresponds to one of said play indicia under said portion of said play spots and represents said redemption value of said one play indicia.

67. (Original) The system of Claim 66 wherein each of said play indicia redemption codes is a two bit binary number.

68. (Original) The system of Claim 66 additionally including a central computer remote from said validation means and wherein at least one of said plurality of play indicia redemption codes causes said validation means to

transmit information containing said play indicia redemption codes to said central computer to determine said ticket redemption value.

69. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim 66 wherein said validation means ~~includes a processor~~ utilizes said microprocessor for computing said ticket redemption value from said plurality of play indicia redemption codes and said removed spot signal.

70. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim 69 further including a first range of ticket redemption values and a second range of ticket redemption values, said first range being less than said second range, wherein said ~~processor~~ validation means utilizes said microprocessor ~~includes a first computer adapted to compute~~ said ticket redemption value from said plurality of play indicia redemption codes when said ticket redemption value is in said first range, and wherein said system includes a second computer remote from said validation means, said second computer being adapted to compute said ticket redemption value when said ticket redemption value is in said second range

71. (Original) The system of Claim 70 including a plurality of said lottery tickets, wherein said redemption information is different on at least a portion of different ones of said plurality of lottery tickets.

72. (Original) The system of Claim 63 including a plurality of said lottery tickets, wherein said redemption information is different on at least a portion of different ones of said plurality of lottery tickets.

73. (Original) The system of Claim 72 wherein said redemption information on each lottery ticket in said portion of said plurality of lottery tickets includes play indicia value data and wherein said ticket data on each of said lottery tickets in said portion of said plurality of lottery tickets additionally includes an identity number relating to said play indicia value data.

74. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim 73 wherein said validation means ~~includes a first computer adapted~~ utilizes said microprocessor to convert said play spot code on each lottery ticket in said portion of said plurality of lottery tickets into a first set of play indicia redemption codes and wherein said validation means includes a second computer adapted to convert said identity number for each lottery ticket in said portion of said plurality of lottery tickets, in combination with information from said detector, into said ticket redemption value for each lottery ticket in said portion of said plurality of lottery tickets.

75. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim 74 wherein said second computer is remote from said ~~first computer~~ microprocessor and includes a validation file containing for each of said identity numbers a second set of related play indicia redemption codes, wherein said validation means includes transmission means for transmitting said identity number for each lottery ticket in said portion of said plurality of lottery tickets to said second computer.

76. (Original) The system of Claim 75 said play spot code of at least one lottery ticket in said portion of said plurality of lottery tickets includes a play redemption code in said first set having a predetermined value and said play redemption code in said first set having said predetermined value causes said transmission means to transmit said identity number for said at least one lottery ticket to said second computer to determine said ticket redemption value of said at least one lottery ticket from said identity number of said at least one lottery.

77. (Original) The system of Claim 75 wherein said play spot code of at least one lottery ticket in said portion of said plurality of lottery tickets includes a play redemption code having a predetermined value and said information in said play spot code of said at least one lottery ticket causes said transmission means to transmit said identity number of said at least one lottery ticket to said central computer to determine said ticket redemption value of said at least one lottery ticket from said identity number of said at least one lottery ticket.

78. (Original) The system of Claim 76 wherein said predetermined value is greater than a predetermined number.

79. (Original) The system of Claim 78 wherein said detector includes at least one electrical circuit located on said at least one lottery ticket.

80. (Original) The system of Claim 79 wherein said validation means additionally includes a display for displaying said ticket redemption value of said at least one lottery ticket.

81. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim 77 wherein said ~~first computer~~ microprocessor is located remote from said reader and wherein said validation means includes communication means for transmitting said number representing said play spot code of said at least one lottery ticket from said reader to said microprocessor ~~first computer~~.

82. (Original) The system of Claim 81 wherein said validation means additionally includes a display for displaying said ticket redemption value of said at least one lottery ticket.

83. (Original) The system of Claim 81 wherein said validation means additionally includes a printer for printing said ticket redemption value of said at least one lottery ticket.

84. (Original) The system of Claim 61 wherein said play spot code is encrypted and said validation means includes decryption means for decrypting said play spot code to generate a decrypted play spot code.

85. (Original) The system of Claim 84 wherein said validation means includes computational means for converting said decrypted play spot code into said ticket redemption value.

86. (Original) The system of Claim 84 wherein said play spot code contains information related to a plurality of play spot values, each of said play spot values in said plurality of play spot values corresponding to a different combination of said play spots on said lottery ticket, wherein said validation means includes computational means for converting said decrypted play spot code into said plurality of play spot values, and wherein said validation means determines said ticket redemption value from said plurality of play spot values.

87. (Original) The system of Claim 86 further including a first range of ticket redemption values and a second range of ticket redemption values, wherein said validation means includes a first computer adapted to said ticket redemption value when said ticket redemption value is in said first range and said system additionally includes a central computer remote from said validation means and configured to determine said ticket redemption value when said ticket redemption value is in said second range.

88. (Original) The system of Claim 87 wherein said validation means additionally includes a display configured to display said ticket redemption value from both said first and second ranges.

89. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim 1 wherein ~~A lottery ticket validation system, comprising:~~

~~a~~ the probability lottery ticket ~~having~~ has a set of predetermined play rules, ~~a plurality of player removable play spots covering play indicia,~~ and validation data printed on said ticket;

an electromagnetic responsive material printed in registry with said play spots on said lottery ticket;

~~an~~ said electronic validation machine having;

i. a controller including said microprocessor,

ii. ~~a~~ said data reader adapted for reading said validation data, said data

reader being operatively connected to said controller,

iii. an electromagnetic sensor as part of said detector operatively connected to said controller and configured to detect said electromagnetic material,

iv. a ticket interface and transport mechanism operatively connected to said controller and adapted to receive said lottery ticket and to position the validation data and play spots with respect to said data reader and said electromagnetic sensor respectively,

wherein said controller is effective to generate from said data reader a data signal representing the validation data and said controller is effective to generate from said electromagnetic sensor a validation signal indicating which of said play spots have been removed from said lottery ticket; and

a processor operatively connected to said controller for relating said data signal to said validation signal to verify said lottery ticket has been played according to said predetermined play rules.

90. (Original) The system of Claim 89 wherein said electromagnetic material is printed in the form of a circuit element.

91. (Original) The system of Claim 90 wherein said validation signal represents an electrical signature of said circuit element.

92. (Original) The system of Claim 89 wherein said electromagnetic sensor is an optical detector.

93. (Original) The system of Claim 92 wherein said validation signal represents an optical signature of said lottery ticket.

94. (Original) The system of Claim 92 wherein said optical detector is a photo detector and is configured to detect and classify a frequency of light emitted by said lottery ticket.

95. (Original) The system of Claim 89 wherein said data reader includes an optical reader.
96. (Original) The system of Claim 95 wherein said validation data is printed as a bar code.
97. (Original) The system of Claim 95 wherein said validation data is printed in a two dimensional bar code and said optical reader is a two dimensional bar code reader.
98. (Original) The system of Claim 96 wherein said validation data includes data representing the number of said play spots to be removed by a player according to said predetermined play rules.
99. (Original) The system of Claim 89 wherein said validation data includes rule data representing the number of said play spots specified in said predetermined play rules to be removed by a player.
100. (Original) The system of Claim 89 wherein said processor is included in said electronic validation machine.
101. (Original) The system of Claim 100 wherein said validation data includes rule data representing the number of said play spots to be removed by a player according said predetermined play rules and wherein said processor includes a memory storing said validation data.
102. (Original) The system of Claim 101 wherein said memory stores said validation data in a form representing an electromagnetic signature of said electromagnetic material.
103. (Original) The system of Claim 89 wherein said processor includes a

central computer and a memory storing rule data representing the number of said play spots specified in said predetermined play rules to be removed by a player.

104. (Original) The system of Claim 103 wherein both said processor and said memory are located remote from said electronic validation machine and wherein said electronic validation machine includes means for transmitting said data signal and said validation signal to said processor.

105. (Original) The system of Claim 104 wherein said rule data stored in said memory represents an electrical signature of said electromagnetic material.

106. (Original) The system of Claim 89 wherein said electronic validation machine additionally includes a display operatively connected to said processor and configured to display an indication that said lottery ticket has not been played according to said predetermined play rules.

107. (Original) The system of Claim 89 wherein said electronic validation machine additionally includes a stigmatization circuit operatively connected to said processor and configured to stigmatize said lottery ticket after said processor has determined that said lottery ticket has been played according to said predetermined play rules.

108. (Original) The system of Claim 89 wherein said validation data includes a ticket identifier, wherein a portion of said data signal corresponds to said ticket identifier, and wherein said processor includes computation means for converting said portion of said data signal into a value related to a redemption value for said lottery ticket.

109. (Original) The system of Claim 108 wherein a portion of said play spots have been removed by a player and wherein said redemption value is related to

said portion of said play spots.

110. (Original) The system of Claim 109 wherein said validation signal represents an electrical signature of said electromagnetic material and said processor includes means for computing from said validation signal a value corresponding to said redemption value.

111. (Original) The system of Claim 108 wherein said processor is included in said electronic validation machine.

112. (Original) The system of Claim 111 wherein said electronic validation machine additionally includes a display configured to display said redemption value.

113. (Original) The system of Claim 111 wherein said electronic validation machine additionally includes a printer configured to print said redemption value.

114. (Original) The system of Claim 108 including a plurality of said lottery tickets, wherein said processor includes a central computer including a memory storing a plurality of said redemption values each corresponding to said ticket identifiers on individual ones of said plurality of said lottery tickets and wherein said central computer is remote from said electronic validation machine.

115. (Original) The system of Claim 114 wherein said electronic validation machine includes a keyboard for manual inputting into said processor of said validation data for a given lottery ticket in said plurality of lottery tickets.

116. (Original) The system of Claim 114 wherein for each lottery ticket in said plurality of lottery tickets said redemption values are represented by an electrical signature of said electromagnetic material.

117. (Original) The system of Claim 114 wherein said validation data includes value data and wherein for each lottery ticket in said plurality of said lottery tickets said processor converts said validation signal into said value related to said redemption value.

118. (Original) The system of Claim 114 wherein for each lottery ticket in said plurality of said lottery tickets said ticket identifier is related to said redemption value.

119. (Original) The system of Claim 118 wherein said central computer additionally includes means for converting at least a portion of said validation signal into said redemption value for each lottery ticket in said plurality of lottery tickets.

120. (Original) The system of Claim 119 wherein said processor includes logic means in said electronic validation machine for converting a first range of validation signals into a corresponding first range of said redemption values and for transmitting at least a portion of said validation signals to said central computer for conversion of a second range of said validation signals into a corresponding second range of said redemption values.

121. (Original) The system of Claim 120 wherein said logic means does not convert said second range of validation signals into said second range of redemption values.

122. (Original) The system of Claim 120 wherein said first range of redemption values is less than said second range of said redemption values.

123. (Original) The system of Claim 122 wherein for each lottery ticket in said plurality of lottery tickets said validation data is printed in a bar code and represents said redemption value of said lottery ticket.

124. (Original) The system of Claim 122 wherein said processor includes a central computer remote from electronic validation machine and having a file containing redemption information and wherein for each lottery ticket in said plurality of lottery tickets said validation data is printed in a bar code and represents a key to said file, and wherein said central computer determines said redemption value of each of said lottery tickets in said plurality of lottery tickets from said redemption information and said validation signal.

125. (Original) The system of Claim 122 said processor includes a central computer remote from electronic validation machine and including a ticket reconstruction program, wherein for each lottery ticket in said plurality of lottery tickets said validation data is printed in a bar code and represents sufficient information to initiate said ticket reconstruction program for said lottery tickets, and wherein said central computer determines said redemption value of each of said lottery tickets in said plurality of lottery tickets from said ticket reconstruction program and said validation signal.

126. (Original) The system of Claim 122 said processor includes a computer having a ticket reconstruction program, wherein for each lottery ticket in said plurality of lottery tickets said validation data is printed in a bar code and represents a seed to said ticket reconstruction program, and wherein said computer determines said redemption value of each of said lottery tickets in said plurality of lottery tickets from said ticket reconstruction program and said validation signal.

127. (Original) The system of Claim 122 further including a first computer having a first ticket reconstruction program and a remote second computer having a second ticket reconstruction program, wherein for each lottery ticket in said plurality of lottery tickets said validation data is printed in a bar code and represents information relating to said first and second ticket reconstruction programs, and wherein said first computer and said second remote computer

determine said redemption value of each of said lottery tickets in said plurality of lottery tickets from said first and second ticket reconstruction programs and said validation signal.

128. (Original) The system of Claim 122 wherein said data reader includes a photo-detector.

129. (Original) The system of Claim 128 wherein said electronic validation machine additionally includes a display configured to display a result of said verification.

130. (Original) The system of Claim 128 wherein said electronic validation machine additionally includes a printer configured to print a result of said verification.

131. (Original) The system of Claim 128 wherein data reader is an optical reader.

132. (Original) The system of Claim 122 wherein for each lottery ticket in said plurality of lottery tickets said validation data is printed in a two-dimensional bar code and wherein said optical reader is a two-dimensional bar code reader.

133. (Original) The system of Claim 122 wherein for each lottery ticket in said plurality of lottery tickets said validation date is printed in a magnetic material and said data reader includes a magnetic reader.

134. (Original) The system of Claim 89 wherein said validation data is printed on said lottery ticket in human readable form and wherein said electronic validation machine includes a keyboard for manual inputting of said validation data into said processor.

135. (Original) The system of Claim 134 wherein said electronic validation machine additionally includes a display configured to display a result of said verification.

136. (Original) The system of Claim 134 wherein said electronic validation machine additionally includes a printer configured to print a result of said verification.

137. (Original) The system of Claim 89 wherein said validation data is printed on said lottery ticket in both bar code and human readable forms and wherein said electronic validation machine includes a keyboard for manual inputting of said validation data into said controller and said data reader includes an optical reader for inputting said validation data into said controller.

138. (Original) The system of Claim 137 wherein said electronic validation machine additionally includes a display configured to display a result of said verification.

139. (Original) The system of Claim 137 wherein said electronic validation machine additionally includes a printer configured to print a result of said verification.

140. (Original) The system of Claim 89 additionally including stigmatization means operatively connected to said processor for stigmatizing said lottery ticket after said lottery ticket has been verified.

141. (Original) The system of Claim 140 wherein said stigmatization means includes a source of electromagnetic energy for applying sufficient electromagnetic energy to a surface of said lottery ticket to alter a color of said lottery ticket.

142. (Original) The system of Claim 140 wherein said lottery ticket additionally includes a fuse element and said stigmatization means includes power means for applying sufficient power to said ticket to break said fuse element.

143. (Original) The system of Claim 140 wherein said lottery ticket includes a temperature sensitive material and said stigmatization means includes energy means for applying sufficient electromagnetic energy to said temperature sensitive material to cause said temperature sensitive material to change color.

144. (Original) The system of Claim 89 wherein said lottery ticket includes a plurality of circuit elements printed on a surface of said lottery ticket and said electronic validation machine includes a power source effective to apply sufficient power to at least a portion of said circuit elements to alter said portion of said electronic circuit elements thereby storing information in said portion of said circuit elements.

145. (Original) The system of Claim 89 wherein said validation data includes ticket identification data.

146. (Original) The system of Claim 145 said portion of said validation data includes a check sum of at least a portion of said validation data.

147. (Currently Amended) ~~The system of Claim 1 wherein A validation system for a lottery ticket including a player removable material located in predetermined locations on the ticket, comprising:~~ said electronic validation machine includes:

 a controller including said microprocessor,

 a document channel;

 a sensor array as part of said detector operatively connected to said controller;

 a transport mechanism operatively connected to said controller effective to transport the lottery ticket through said document channel such that at least a

portion of the player removable material is aligned with said sensor array;
a memory; and
a scanning circuit as part of said detector operatively connected to said controller and to said sensor array for generating in said memory a scanned bit map of at least a portion of the player removable material.

148. (Original) The system of Claim 147 additionally including validation data in said memory and a processor operatively connected to said controller for comparing said scanned bit map to said validation data according to a predetermined criteria to verify the lottery ticket.

149. (Original) The system of Claim 148 wherein said predetermined criteria includes a location of the player removable material.

150. (Original) The system of Claim 148 wherein said predetermined criteria includes a shape of the player removable material.

151. (Original) The system of Claim 148 wherein said predetermined criteria includes an expected percentage of removal of the player removable material.

152. (Original) The system of Claim 151 wherein said percentage represents a minimum percentage of the player removable material for a played lottery ticket.

153. (Original) The system of Claim 151 wherein said minimum percentage is 30 percent.

154. (Original) The system of Claim 148 wherein said validation data is contained in said memory as a bit map.

155. (Original) The system of Claim 148 wherein said predetermined criteria includes a percentage of the player removable material.

156. (Original) The system of Claim 155 wherein said percentage is related to an expected amount of removal of the player removable material for a played ticket.

157. (Original) The system of Claim 155 wherein said percentage is 30 percent.

158. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim 1 wherein ~~A probability lottery ticket validation system, comprising:~~

~~a the probability lottery ticket having~~ includes a set of predetermined play rules and ~~including a plurality of player removable play spots covering play indicia located in predetermined locations on said probability lottery ticket and~~ validation data printed on said probability lottery ticket;

and wherein said electronic validation machine includes:

a housing;

a controller located in said housing,

a document channel configured in said housing;

a transport mechanism operatively connected to said controller and located in said housing effective to transport said probability lottery ticket through said document channel;

a memory operatively connected to said controller containing data representing said probability lottery ticket including at least a portion of said validation data and removed play spot data; and

a processor including said microprocessor operatively connected to said controller for relating said removed play spot data to said portion of said validation data contained in said memory to verify said probability lottery ticket has been played according to said predetermined play rules and to cause said transport mechanism to exit said probability lottery ticket from said document channel.

159. (Original) The system of Claim 158 wherein said validation data is printed

as a bar code on said probability lottery ticket.

160. (Original) The system of Claim 159 wherein said validation data includes data representing the number of play spots to be removed by a player according to said predetermined play rules.

161. (Original) The system of Claim 160 wherein said portion of said validation data contained in said memory includes data representing the number of play spots specified by said predetermined play rules to be removed by a player.

162. (Original) The system of Claim 158 wherein said processor is included in said housing.

163. (Original) The system of Claim 158 additionally including a central computer, said central computer including a central memory storing data representing the number of play spots specified in said predetermined play rules to be removed by a player.

164. (Original) The system of Claim 163 wherein said central computer is located remote from said housing and wherein said controller includes a communications interface for transmitting said validation data from said memory to said central computer.

165. (Original) The system of Claim 158 wherein said housing additionally includes a display operatively connected to said processor and configured to display an indication that said probability lottery ticket has not been played according to said predetermined play rules.

166. (Original) The system of Claim 158 wherein said housing additionally includes a stigmatization circuit operatively connected to said processor for stigmatizing said probability lottery ticket after said processor has determined

that said probability lottery ticket has been played according to said predetermined play rules.

167. (Original) The system of Claim 158 wherein said portion of said validation data contained in said memory includes a ticket identifier and wherein said processor converts said ticket identifier into a value corresponding to a ticket redemption value for said ticket.

168. (Original) The system of Claim 167 wherein a portion of said play spots has been removed by a player and wherein said ticket redemption value is related to said portion of said play spots.

169. (Original) The system of Claim 168 wherein said processor is included in said housing.

170. (Original) The system of Claim 167 wherein said housing additionally includes a display operatively connected to said controller and configured to display said ticket redemption value.

171. (Original) The system of Claim 167 further including a plurality of said probability lottery tickets, wherein said processor includes a central computer having a central memory storing a plurality of said ticket redemption values each corresponding to said ticket identifiers on said plurality of said tickets and wherein said central computer is remote from said housing.

172. (Original) The system of Claim 171 wherein said each of said plurality of ticket redemption values corresponds to at least one combination of said play spots on individual ones of said plurality of probability lottery tickets.

173. (Original) The system of Claim 158 wherein said portion of said validation data contained in said memory includes redemption value data and said

processor converts said removed play spot data and said redemption value data into a ticket redemption value.

174. (Original) The system of Claim 158 wherein said portion of said validation data contained in said memory includes a ticket identifier representing a ticket redemption value.

175. (Original) The system of Claim 174 wherein said processor additionally converts at least a portion of said ticket identifier into said ticket redemption value.

176. (Original) The system of Claim 175 wherein said housing additionally includes a display operatively connected to said controller and configured to display said ticket redemption value.

177. (Original) The system of Claim 175 additionally including a plurality of said probability lottery tickets and a central computer, operatively connected to said processor, having a central memory storing a plurality of said ticket redemption values each corresponding to said validation data on individual ones of said plurality of said probability lottery tickets, wherein said central computer is remote from said housing and wherein said processor is located in said housing and is adapted to convert a first range of said removed play spot data into a corresponding first range of said ticket redemption values and is adapted to transmit at least a portion of said removed play spot data to said central computer for conversion of a second range of said removed play spot data into a corresponding second range of said ticket redemption values.

178. (Original) The system of Claim 177 wherein said first range of ticket redemption values is less than said second range of ticket redemption values.

179. (Original) The system of Claim 177 wherein said processor does not

convert said second range of removed play spot data into said second range of said ticket redemption values.

180. (Original) The system of Claim 158 additionally including a stigmatization mechanism having a source of electromagnetic energy operatively connected to said processor, said stigmatizing mechanism being adapted to stigmatizing said probability lottery ticket after said processor has verified said probability lottery ticket.

181. (Original) The system of Claim 180 wherein said probability lottery ticket is printed with a temperature sensitive ink and wherein said stigmatization mechanism applies a sufficient amount of electromagnetic energy to said probability lottery ticket to change a color of at least a portion of said probability lottery ticket.

182. (Original) The system of Claim 158 wherein said portion of said validation data contained in said memory includes an identity number related to at least one ticket redemption value.

183. (Original) The system of Claim 182 wherein said identity number includes ticket integrity data.

184. (Original) The system of Claim 182 wherein said identity number includes ticket reconstruction information.

185. (Original) The system of Claim 182 wherein said identity number includes a game number and a pack number.

186. (Original) The system of Claim 185 wherein said identity number additionally includes a ticket number.

187. (Original) The system of Claim 182 wherein said identity number includes a ticket number.

188. (Original) The system of Claim 182 wherein said identity number includes a game unique validation number.

189. (Original) The system of Claim 182 wherein said identity number includes a pool unique validation number.

190. (Original) The system of Claim 182 wherein said identity number includes a pack unique validation number.

191. (Original) The system of Claim 182 further including a plurality of said probability lottery tickets, wherein said memory includes a validation file containing for each said identity number on said plurality of lottery tickets at least one of said related ticket redemption values for at least one combination of said player removable play spots and wherein for individual tickets in said plurality of said probability lottery tickets said processor determines a played ticket redemption value from said removed play spot data, said identity number, and said related ticket redemption values in said validation file.

192. (Original) The system of Claim 182 further including a plurality of said probability lottery tickets and a central computer operatively connected to said processor, said central computer having a validation file containing for each said identity number on said plurality of said probability lottery tickets at least one of said related ticket redemption values for at least one combination of said player removable play spots and wherein for individual tickets in said plurality of said probability lottery tickets said central computer determines a played ticket redemption value from said removed spot data, said identity number, and said related ticket redemption values in said validation file.

193. (Original) The system of Claim 192 wherein said central computer and said validation file are remote from said housing and wherein said system further includes transmission means for transmitting said identity number and said removed spot data for individual tickets in said plurality of said probability lottery tickets to said central computer.

194. (Original) The system of Claim 193 wherein said housing additionally includes a display operatively connected to said processor and configured to display said played ticket redemption value for individual tickets in said plurality of said probability lottery tickets.

195. (Original) The system of Claim 194 wherein said display is located in said housing and said transmission means additionally transmits said played ticket redemption value for individual tickets in said plurality of lottery tickets to said display from said central computer.

196. (Original) The system of Claim 182 further including a plurality of said probability lottery tickets, wherein said memory includes a validation file containing play indicia value data corresponding to said identification number for each lottery ticket in said plurality of lottery tickets and wherein for individual tickets in said plurality of said probability lottery tickets said processor determines a played ticket redemption value from said removed play spot data, said identity number, and said corresponding play indicia value data in said validation file.

197. (Original) The system of Claim 182 further including a plurality of said probability lottery tickets and a central computer operatively connected to said processor, said central computer having a validation file containing play indicia value data corresponding to said identification number for each lottery ticket in said plurality of lottery tickets and wherein for individual tickets in said plurality of said probability lottery tickets said central computer determines a played

ticket redemption value from said removed spot data, said identity number, and said corresponding play indicia value data in said validation file.

198. (Original) The system of Claim 197 wherein said central computer and said validation file are remote from said housing and wherein said system further includes transmission means for transmitting said identity number and said removed spot data for individual tickets in said plurality of said probability lottery tickets to said central computer.

199. (Original) The system of Claim 198 wherein said housing additionally includes a display operatively connected to said processor and configured to display said played ticket redemption value for individual tickets in said plurality of said probability lottery tickets.

200. (Original) The system of Claim 199 wherein said display is located in said housing and said transmission means additionally transmits said played ticket redemption value for individual tickets in said plurality of lottery tickets to said display from said central computer.

201. (Original) The system of Claim 158 wherein said portion of said valuation data contained in said memory includes a play spot code containing play indicia value data for at least a portion of said play spots and said processor is adapted to compute a ticket redemption value from said play spot code.

202. (Original) The system of Claim 201 wherein said play spot code is encrypted and said processor includes decryption logic for decrypting said play spot code.

203. (Original) The system of Claim 201 wherein said play spot code is represented by a number.

204. (Original) The system of Claim 203 wherein said number is a base 10 number.

205. (Original) The system of Claim 203 wherein said number is a binary number.

206. (Original) The system of Claim 203 wherein said processor is adapted to convert said number into a plurality of play indicia redemption codes wherein each of said play indicia redemption codes corresponds to a combination of removed play spots as represented by said removed play spot data.

207. (Original) The system of Claim 206 wherein said play indicia redemption codes are two bit binary numbers.

208. (Original) The system of Claim 158 additionally including a central computer remote from said housing and operatively connected to said processor, wherein said removed play spot data causes said processor to transmit information representing said validation data and said removed play spot data to said central computer to determine a ticket redemption value.

209. (Original) The system of Claim 158 wherein said portion of said validation data contained in said memory contains a plurality of play indicia redemption codes corresponding to various combinations of said play spots and said processor is adapted to compute a played ticket redemption value from said removed play spot data in said memory and said plurality of play indicia redemption codes.

210. (Original) The system of Claim 209 further including a first range of ticket redemption values and a second range of ticket redemption values, said first range being less than said second range, wherein said processor computes said played ticket redemption value when said played ticket redemption value is in

said first range and wherein said system additionally includes a central computer remote from said housing and operatively connected to said processor, said processor being adapted to transmit data from said memory to said central computer, said central computer being adapted to compute said played ticket redemption value when said played ticket redemption value is in said second range.

211. (Original) The system of Claim 210 wherein at least one of said play indicia redemption codes representing a predetermined value causes said processor to transmit said to said central computer said removed play spot data and said portion of said validation data contained in said memory.

212. (Original) The system of Claim 210 wherein at least one of said play indicia redemption codes represents a predetermined value and wherein said portion of said validation data contained in said memory includes an indicator that will cause said processor to transmit said removed play spot data and said portion of said validation data in said memory to said central computer.

213. (Original) The system of Claim 212 wherein said predetermined value represents at least one of said redemption values greater than a predetermined value.

214. (Original) The system of Claim 158 wherein said portion of validation data contained in said memory data includes information representing a plurality of play indicia redemption codes corresponding to different combinations of said play spots on said probability lottery ticket and wherein said processor determines a ticket redemption value from said removed play spot data and said portion of said validation data contained in said memory.

215. (Original) The system of Claim 214 wherein said housing additionally includes a display operatively connected to said controller and configured to

display said ticket redemption value.

216. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim 1 wherein ~~A probability lottery ticket validation system, comprising:~~

~~a~~ the probability lottery ticket having includes a set of predetermined play rules and ~~including~~ validation data printed on said ticket and ~~a wherein said~~ plurality of player removable play spots covering play indicia are located in predetermined locations on said ticket;

and wherein said electronic validation machine includes:

a housing;

a controller including said microprocessor located in said housing,

a document channel configured in said housing;

a transport mechanism operatively connected to said controller and located in said housing effective to transport said probability lottery ticket through said document channel;

a memory operatively connected to said controller containing data representing said probability lottery ticket including removed play spot data and at least a portion of said validation data; and

a processor operatively connected to said controller for relating said portion of said validation data to said removed play spot data to generate ~~a played~~ said ticket redemption value and to cause said transport mechanism to exit said probability lottery ticket from said document channel.

217. (Original) The system of Claim 216 wherein said housing additionally includes a stigmatization circuit operatively connected to said processor for stigmatizing said probability lottery ticket prior to said transport mechanism exiting said ticket from said document channel.

218. (Original) The system of Claim 216 wherein said stigmatization circuit applies sufficient electromagnetic power to said probability lottery ticket to change a color of at least a portion of said probability ticket.

219. (Original) The system of Claim 216 wherein said probability lottery ticket is printed with a temperature sensitive ink and said stigmatization circuit applies sufficient electromagnetic energy to said probability lottery ticket to change a color of at least a portion of said probability lottery ticket printed with said temperature sensitive ink.

220. (Original) The system of Claim 216 wherein said housing additionally includes a display operatively connected to said processor and configured to said played ticket redemption value.

221. (Original) The system of Claim 216 wherein said portion of said validation data includes a ticket identifier and wherein said processor converts said ticket identifier into a value corresponding to said played ticket redemption value for said ticket.

222. (Original) The system of Claim 221 wherein a portion of said play spots has been removed by a player and wherein said played ticket redemption value is related to said portion of said play spots.

223. (Original) The system of Claim 222 wherein said processor is included in said housing.

224. (Original) The system of Claim 221 wherein said housing additionally includes a display operatively connected to said controller and configured to display said played ticket redemption value.

225. (Original) The system of Claim 221 further including a plurality of said probability lottery tickets, wherein said processor includes a central computer having a central memory storing a plurality of ticket redemption values each corresponding to said ticket identifiers on said plurality of said probability lottery tickets and wherein said central computer is remote from said housing.

226. (Original) The system of Claim 225 wherein said each of said plurality of ticket redemption values corresponds to at least one combination of said play spots on individual ones of said plurality of probability lottery tickets.

227. (Original) The system of Claim 216 wherein said portion of said validation data contained in said memory includes redemption value data and said processor converts said removed play spot data and said redemption value data into said played ticket redemption value.

228. (Original) The system of Claim 216 wherein said portion of said validation data represented in said memory includes a ticket identifier related to said played ticket redemption value.

229. (Original) The system of Claim 228 wherein said processor additionally converts at least a portion of said ticket identifier into said played ticket redemption value.

230. (Original) The system of Claim 229 wherein said housing additionally includes a display operatively connected to said controller and configured to display said played ticket redemption value.

231. (Original) The system of Claim 229 additionally including a plurality of said probability lottery tickets and a central computer operatively connected to said processor and having a central memory storing a plurality of ticket redemption values each corresponding to said validation data on individual ones of said plurality of said probability lottery tickets, wherein said central computer is remote from said housing and wherein said processor is located in said housing and is adapted to convert a first range of said removed play spot data into a corresponding first range of said ticket redemption values and is adapted to transmit at least a portion of said removed play spot data to said central computer for conversion of a second range of said removed play spot data into a

corresponding second range of said ticket redemption values.

232. (Original) The system of Claim 231 wherein said first range of ticket redemption values is less than said second range of ticket redemption values.

233. (Original) The system of Claim 232 wherein said processor does not convert said second range of removed play spot data into said second range of said ticket redemption values.

234. (Original) The system of Claim 216 additionally including a stigmatization mechanism having a source of electromagnetic energy operatively connected to said processor, said stigmatizing mechanism being adapted to stigmatizing said probability lottery ticket after said processor has generated said played ticket redemption value.

235. (Original) The system of Claim 234 wherein said probability lottery ticket is printed with a temperature sensitive ink and wherein said stigmatization mechanism applies a sufficient amount of electromagnetic energy to said probability lottery ticket to change a color of at least a portion of said probability lottery ticket.

236. (Original) The system of Claim 216 wherein said portion of said validation data represented in said memory includes an identity number related to at least one ticket redemption value.

237. (Original) The system of Claim 236 wherein said identity number includes ticket integrity data.

238. (Original) The system of Claim 236 wherein said identity number includes ticket reconstruction data.

239. (Original) The system of Claim 236 wherein said identity number includes a game number and a pack number.

240. (Original) The system of Claim 239 wherein said identity number additionally includes a ticket number.

241. (Original) The system of Claim 236 wherein said identity number includes a ticket number.

242. (Original) The system of Claim 236 wherein said identity number includes a game unique validation number.

243. (Original) The system of Claim 236 wherein said identity number includes a pool unique validation number.

244. (Original) The system of Claim 236 wherein said identity number includes a pack unique validation number.

245. (Original) The system of Claim 236 further including a plurality of said probability lottery tickets, wherein said memory includes a validation file containing for each said identity number on said plurality of probability lottery tickets at least one of said related ticket redemption values for at least one combination of said player removable play spots and wherein for individual tickets in said plurality of said probability lottery tickets said processor determines said played ticket redemption value from said removed play spot data, said identity number, and said related ticket redemption values in said validation file.

246. (Original) The system of Claim 236 further including a plurality of said probability lottery tickets and a central computer operatively connected to said processor, said central computer having a validation file containing for each said

identity number on said plurality of said probability lottery tickets at least one of said related ticket redemption values for at least one combination of said player removable play spots and wherein for individual tickets in said plurality of said probability lottery tickets said central computer determines said played ticket redemption value from said removed spot data, said identity number, and said related ticket redemption values in said validation file.

247. (Original) The system of Claim 246 wherein said central computer and said validation file are remote from said housing and wherein said system further includes transmission means for transmitting said identity number and said removed spot data for individual tickets in said plurality of said probability lottery tickets to said central computer.

248. (Original) The system of Claim 247 wherein said housing additionally includes a display operatively connected to said processor and configured to display said played ticket redemption value for individual tickets in said plurality of said probability lottery tickets.

249. (Original) The system of Claim 248 wherein said display is located in said housing and said transmission means additionally transmits said played ticket redemption value for individual tickets in said plurality of lottery tickets to said display from said central computer.

250. (Original) The system of Claim 236 further including a plurality of said probability lottery tickets, wherein said memory includes a validation file containing play indicia value data corresponding to said identification number for each probability lottery ticket in said plurality of probability lottery tickets and wherein for individual tickets in said plurality of said probability lottery tickets said processor determines said played ticket redemption value from said removed play spot data, said identity number, and said corresponding play indicia value data in said validation file.

251. (Original) The system of Claim 236 further including a plurality of said probability lottery tickets and a central computer operatively connected to said processor, said central computer having a validation file containing play indicia value data corresponding to said identification number for each probability lottery ticket in said plurality of probability lottery tickets and wherein for individual probability tickets in said plurality of said probability lottery tickets said central computer determines said played ticket redemption value from said removed spot data, said identity number, and said corresponding play indicia value data in said validation file.

252. (Original) The system of Claim 251 wherein said central computer and said validation file are remote from said housing and wherein said system further includes transmission means for transmitting said identity number and said removed spot data for individual probability tickets in said plurality of said probability lottery tickets to said central computer.

253. (Original) The system of Claim 252 wherein said housing additionally includes a display operatively connected to said processor and configured to display said played ticket redemption value for individual probability tickets in said plurality of said probability lottery tickets.

254. (Original) The system of Claim 253 wherein said display is located in said housing and said transmission means additionally transmits said played ticket redemption value for individual probability tickets in said plurality of probability lottery tickets to said display from said central computer.

255. (Original) The system of Claim 216 wherein said portion of said valuation data represented in said memory includes a play spot code containing play indicia value data for at least a portion of said play spots and said processor is adapted to compute said played ticket redemption value from said play spot code.

256. (Original) The system of Claim 255 wherein said play spot code is encrypted and said processor includes decryption logic for decrypting said play spot code.

257. (Original) The system of Claim 255 wherein said play spot code is represented by a number.

258. (Original) The system of Claim 257 wherein said number is a base 10 number.

259. (Original) The system of Claim 257 wherein said number is a binary number.

260. (Original) The system of Claim 257 wherein said processor is adapted to convert said number into a plurality of play indicia redemption codes wherein each of said play indicia redemption codes corresponds to a combination of removed play spots as represented by said removed play spot data.

261. (Original) The system of Claim 260 wherein said play indicia redemption codes are two-bit binary numbers.

262. (Original) The system of Claim 216 additionally including a central computer remote from said housing and operatively connected to said processor, wherein said removed play spot data causes said processor to transmit information representing said validation data and said removed play spot data to said central computer to determine played ticket redemption value.

263. (Original) The system of Claim 216 wherein said portion of said validation data represented in said memory contains a plurality of play indicia redemption codes corresponding to various combinations of said play spots and said processor is adapted to compute said played ticket redemption value from said

removed play spot data in said memory and said plurality of play indicia redemption codes.

264. (Original) The system of Claim 263 further including a first range of ticket redemption values and a second range of ticket redemption values, said first range being less than said second range, wherein said processor computes said played ticket redemption value when said played ticket redemption value is in said first range and wherein said system additionally includes a central computer remote from said housing and operatively connected to said processor, said processor being adapted to transmit data from said memory to said central computer, said central computer being adapted to compute said played ticket redemption value when said played ticket redemption value is in said second range.

265. (Original) The system of Claim 264 wherein at least one of said play indicia redemption codes having a predetermined value causes said processor to transmit said to said central computer said removed play spot data and said portion of said validation data represented in said memory.

266. (Original) The system of Claim 264 wherein at least one of said play indicia redemption codes has a predetermined value and wherein said portion of said validation data represented in said memory includes an indicator causing said processor to transmit said removed play spot data and said portion of said validation data in said memory to said central computer.

267. (Original) The system of Claim 265 wherein said predetermined value represents at least one of said redemption values greater than a predetermined value.

268. (Original) The system of Claim 216 wherein said portion of validation data represented in said memory data includes information representing a plurality of

play indicia redemption codes corresponding to different combinations of said play spots on said probability lottery ticket and wherein said processor determines said ticket redemption value from said removed play spot data and said portion of said validation data represented in said memory.

269. (Original) The system of Claim 268 wherein said housing additionally includes a display operatively connected to said controller and configured to display said played ticket redemption value.

270. (Original) The system of Claim 216 wherein said portion of said validation data in said memory includes a ticket identifier and said processor converts said portion of said validation data corresponding to said ticket identifier into a value corresponding to said played redemption value.

271. (Original) The system of Claim 270 wherein a portion of said play spots has been removed by a player and wherein said redemption value is related to said portion of said play spots.

272. (Original) The system of Claim 216 wherein said processor is included in said housing.

273. (Original) The system of Claim 272 wherein said housing additionally includes a display operatively connected to said controller and configured to display said played ticket redemption value.

274. (Original) The system of Claim 270 additionally including a plurality of said probability lottery tickets and a central computer having a memory storing a plurality of potential ticket redemption values each corresponding to said ticket identifiers on each lottery ticket in said plurality of said probability lottery tickets and wherein said central computer is remote from said housing.

275. (Original) The system of Claim 274 wherein said potential ticket redemption values are represented by at least one combination of said play spots.

276. (Original) The system of Claim 216 wherein said validation data in said memory includes redemption value data and said processing means converts said removed play spot data and said redemption value data into said played ticket redemption value.

277. (Original) The system of Claim 216 wherein validation data represented in said memory includes a ticket identifier relating to a potential ticket redemption value.

278. (Original) The system of Claim 277 wherein said processor additionally converts at least a portion of said ticket identifier into said played ticket redemption value.

279. (Original) The system of Claim 278 additionally including a plurality of said probability lottery tickets and a central computer operatively connected to said processor and having a central memory storing a plurality of said potential ticket redemption values each corresponding to said validation data on individual ones of said plurality of said probability lottery tickets, wherein said central computer is remote from said housing and wherein said processor is located in housing and is adapted to convert a first range of said removed play spot data into a corresponding first range of said potential ticket redemption values and for transmitting at least a portion of said removed play spot data to said central computer for conversion of a second range of said removed play spot data into a corresponding second range of said potential ticket redemption values.

280. (Original) The system of Claim 279 wherein of said first range of potential ticket redemption values is less than said second range of potential ticket

redemption values.

281. (Original) The system of Claim 216 wherein said validation data in said memory includes an identity number related to at least one potential ticket redemption value.

282. (Original) The system of Claim 281 further including a plurality of said probability lottery tickets, wherein said memory includes a validation file containing for each said identity number on individual ones of said plurality of probability lottery tickets at least one of said related potential ticket redemption values for at least one combination of said player removable play spots and wherein for an individual ticket in said plurality of probability lottery tickets said processor determines said played ticket redemption value from said removed spot data, said identity number, and said related potential ticket redemption values in said validation file.

283. (Original) The system of Claim 281 further including a plurality of said probability lottery ticket and a central computer operatively connected to said processor and having a validation file containing for each said identity number on individual ones of said plurality of probability lottery tickets at least one of said related potential ticket redemption values for at least one combination of said player removable play spots and wherein for an individual ticket in said plurality of probability lottery tickets said central computer determines said played ticket redemption value from said removed spot data, said identity number, and said related potential ticket redemption values in said validation file.

284. (Original) The system of Claim 283 wherein said central computer and said validation file are remote from said housing and wherein said system further includes transmission means for transmitting said identity number and said removed play spot data for said individual ticket in said plurality of probability lottery tickets to said central computer.

285. (Original) The system of Claim 284 wherein said housing additionally includes a display operatively connected to said processor and configured to display played ticket redemption value for said individual ticket in said plurality of probability lottery tickets.

286. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim 1 wherein ~~A validation system for a~~ the probability lottery ticket having ~~includes a set of~~ predetermined play rules ~~and including a plurality of player removable play spots covering play indicia located in predetermined locations on the ticket~~ and validation data printed on the ticket, comprising:

and wherein said electronic validation machine includes:

a controller including said microprocessor,

a document channel;

a photo-detector array operatively as part of said detector connected to said controller;

a transport mechanism operatively connected to said controller effective to transport the probability lottery ticket through said document channel such that at least a portion of the play spots is substantially aligned with said photo-detector array;

a scanning circuit as part of said detector operatively connected to said photo-detector array for generating a validation signal indicating which of the play spots have been removed from the probability lottery ticket;

~~a~~ said data reader operatively connected to said controller for reading the validation data;

wherein said controller is effective to generate from said data reader a data signal representing the validation data; and

a processor operatively connected to said controller for relating said data signal to said validation signal to verify the probability lottery ticket has been played.

287. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim 286 wherein ~~A validation~~

~~system for a probability lottery ticket having predetermined play rules and including a plurality of player removable play spots covering play indicia located in predetermined locations on the ticket and validation data printed on the ticket, comprising:~~

- ~~—— a controller;~~
- ~~—— a document channel;~~
- ~~—— a sensor array operatively connected to said controller;~~
- ~~—— a transport mechanism operatively connected to said controller effective to transport the probability lottery ticket through said document channel such that at least a portion of the play spots is substantially aligned with said sensor array;~~
- ~~—— a scanning circuit operatively connected to said sensor array for generating a validation signal indicating which of the play spots have been removed from the probability lottery ticket;~~
- ~~—— a data reader operatively connected to said controller for reading the validation data;~~
- ~~—— wherein said controller is effective to generate from said data reader a data signal representing the validation data; and~~
- ~~—— a said processor operatively connected to said controller for relating said data signal to said validation signal to verify additionally verifies that the probability lottery ticket has been played according to the predetermined play rules.~~

288. (Original) The system of Claim 287 additionally including a stigmatization circuit for stigmatizing the probability lottery ticket after the probability lottery ticket has been verified.

289. (Original) The system of Claim 288 wherein said stigmatization circuit applies sufficient electromagnetic power to the probability lottery ticket to change a color of at least a portion of the ticket.

290. (Original) The system of Claim 288 wherein the probability lottery ticket is printed with a temperature sensitive ink and said stigmatization circuit generates sufficient heat on the probability lottery ticket to change a color of said portion of the probability lottery ticket printed with the temperature sensitive ink.

291. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim 1 wherein ~~A validation system for a~~ the probability lottery ticket having ~~has a set of~~ predetermined play rules ~~and including a plurality of player removable play spots covering play indicia located in predetermined locations on the probability ticket~~ and validation data printed on the probability ticket, ~~comprising:~~

and wherein said electronic validation machine includes:

a housing;

a controller including said microprocessor located in said housing,

a document channel configured in said housing;

a sensor array as part of said detector located in said housing and operatively connected to said controller;

a transport mechanism located in said housing including at least one roller, a plurality of ticket sensors, and a motor operatively connected to said controller and said roller, said transport mechanism being effective to transport the probability lottery ticket through said document channel such that at least a portion of the play spots is substantially aligned with said sensor array;

a scanning circuit as part of said detector operatively connected to said sensor array for generating a validation signal indicating which of the play spots have been removed from the probability lottery ticket;

a said data reader operatively connected to said controller and adapted to read the validation data;

wherein said controller is effective to generate from said data reader a data signal representing the validation data; and

a processor operatively connected to said controller for relating said data signal to said validation signal to verify the probability lottery ticket has been played according to the predetermined play rules.

292. (Original) The system of Claim 291 wherein said verification includes determining if the correct number of play spots have been removed according to the predetermined play rules.

293. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim 292 wherein, after the probability lottery ticket has been verified, said processor determines a said redemption value for the probability lottery ticket.

294. (Original) The system of Claim 293 additionally including a display configured to display said redemption value.

295. (Original) The system of Claim 291 additionally including a stigmatization circuit adapted to stigmatize the probability lottery ticket after the probability lottery ticket has been verified.

296. (Original) The system of Claim 295 wherein said stigmatization circuit applies sufficient electromagnetic energy to the probability lottery ticket to change a color of at least a portion of the probability ticket.

297. (Original) The system of Claim 296 wherein the probability lottery ticket is printed with a temperature sensitive ink and said stigmatization circuit generates sufficient heat on the probability lottery ticket to change a color of said portion of the probability lottery ticket printed with the temperature sensitive ink.

298. (Original) The system of Claim 291 wherein a first of said ticket detectors indicates to said controller that the probability lottery ticket is in said channel.

299. (Original) The system of Claim 298 wherein said controller responds to said first ticket detector to cause said motor to rotate said roller and move the probability lottery ticket past said sensor array.

300. (Original) The system of Claim 299 wherein a second of said ticket detectors indicates when the probability lottery ticket has exited said channel.

301. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim 1 wherein ~~A validation system for a said probability lottery ticket having~~ includes a set of predetermined play rules and ~~including a plurality of player removable material covering play spots that in turn cover play indicia located in predetermined locations on the ticket~~ and validation data printed on the ticket in the form of a bar code, comprising:

and wherein said electronic validation machine includes:

a housing;

a controller including said microprocessor located in said housing,

a document channel configured in said housing;

a sensor as part of said detector including an optical detector located in said housing and operatively connected to said controller;

a said data reader operatively connected to said controller and adapted to read the bar code;

a transport mechanism located in said housing and operatively connected to said controller, said transport mechanism including at least one roller, a plurality of ticket sensors, and a motor, said roller being effective to transport the probability lottery ticket through said document channel such that at least a portion of the play spots is substantially aligned with said sensor and such that the bar code is substantially aligned with said data reader;

a scanning circuit as part of said detector operatively connected to said sensor and to said controller for scanning at least a portion of the probability ticket for the player removable material covering the play spots and generating a validation signal indicating which, if any, of the player removable material covering the play spots has been removed from the probability lottery ticket;

a memory operatively connected to said controller and containing data representing the probability lottery ticket including at least a portion of the validation data obtained from said data reader and removed play spot data obtained from said validation signal;

a processor operatively connected to said controller and said memory for relating said portion of said validation data to said removed play spot data to verify the probability lottery ticket and to cause said transport mechanism to exit the probability lottery ticket from said document channel; and

a stigmatization circuit operatively connected to said processor and adapted to change at least a portion of a color of the probability lottery ticket prior to said transport mechanism exiting the probability ticket from said document channel.

302. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim 301 wherein said processor additionally relates said validation data to said removed play spot data to generate a said redemption value for the probability lottery ticket.